

Public Health *E.coli* investigation update- August 10, 2010

Clark County Public Health is continuing its investigation of possible *E.coli* cases following positive test results in a child who attended a supervised play area at Lake Shore Athletic Club while possibly contagious.

All families and staff who attended the supervised play area from July 10 to August 4 have either been contacted by telephone or sent certified letters explaining the situation and giving basic information. The athletic club voluntarily closed the play area on the evening of August 4. If the investigation reveals no more confirmed cases of *E.coli*, the supervised play area can reopen Monday, August 16.

Public Health staff and volunteers have reached about 225 contacts- children and club staff who might have been exposed- to find out if potentially exposed persons were experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea that may have been bloody.

Through interviews with families and athletic club staff who worked in the play area during that time, Public Health found 33 cases of diarrhea symptoms in children and staff. Public Health requested all 33 people to be tested either through Public Health or through their private provider.

Based on the investigative guidelines, these 33 cases are classified as “probable” cases. Of 23 cases that have submitted stool samples for testing, 5 have come back confirmed negative for *E.coli*, and 2 others are likely negative. Additional test results are expected later this week. Until these results come in, we cannot conclude that any of the 33 cases are *E.coli* because children commonly get a variety of gastrointestinal illnesses. If test results reveal additional confirmed cases of *E.coli*, then Public Health will broaden its investigation to include contacts of the additional cases.

To prevent the possible spread of *E.coli*, contacts have been asked to remember to wash hands frequently and thoroughly, especially after going to the bathroom, after changing diapers and before preparing food. In addition, people should observe proper diaper changing hygiene, food storage and preparation, and other precautions.

Children diagnosed with *E.coli* must not return to a child care facility until they have two negative stool tests in a 48-hour period.